

Register results

The following actions, regulations or standards have been taken or issued by Federal agencies. CONSUMER REGISTER has previously summarized all as proposals. The extent of consumer comment on each item is reported when such information is available.

- **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** has granted the Consumer Safety Glazing Committee (CSGC) an extension of time—from Oct. 25 until Jan. 24, 1975—to develop a mandatory safety standard for architectural glass (such as picture windows). CPSC also provided \$15,480 in additional support funds for consumer participation in the development of the standard. CPSC extended the time to enable CSGC to obtain additional technical information on causes of glass-related injuries & to give CSGC more time to evaluate the many comments received. Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 1, page 38715; Aug. 21, page 30191; May 28, page 18502. CONSUMER REGISTER: June 15 & Sept. 15.

- On April 16, 1975, **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** will set standards for the addition of fluoride to bottled water. FDA received no consumer comments. Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 16, page 36960; Nov. 26, 1973, page 32563. CONSUMER REGISTER: March 15:

Bicyclist safety

Dec. 16 is deadline for comments on **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA)** proposal to develop highway safety standards to protect bicycle riders. NHTSA is asking for ideas & recommendations on bicyclist safety from state & local officials, the bicycle industry, safety organizations & consumers.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has jurisdiction over bicycle safety, & it recently adopted mandatory safety standards for bicycles—to become effective Jan. 1, 1975.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has jurisdiction over bicycle lanes & paths as well as traffic controls & is developing a proposal dealing with those issues.

NHTSA expects the bicycling boom to continue because of urban congestion, fuel shortages & desire for physical fitness. NHTSA also expects that hazards to bicyclists will become more serious unless steps are taken to reduce dangers.

NHTSA is particularly interested in getting as much information as possible in answer to the following:

- Should bicycles be subject to the same rules of the road as cars? (Some bicycling organizations are in favor of the same rules.)
- Would uniform traffic laws reduce bicycle accidents?
- Should there be a combined bicycle/pedestrian standard? If so, should the proposed standards include motor-driven cycles with 5 horsepower or less? (NHTSA also says pedestrian safety needs improvement.)
- What kinds of education campaigns should be conducted for adult bicyclists? (Bicycling safety is being taught in some schools, but the agency would like comments on how those education programs can be improved.)
- Is it practical to modify police accident forms to include comprehensive bicycle & bicyclist data?

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 15, page 36864. CONSUMER NEWS: Aug. 1. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590.

Plastics flammability (continued)

Dec. 10 is new deadline for comments on **Federal Trade Commission's (FTC)** proposed trade regulation requiring plastics companies to warn consumers that certain plastic building materials are extremely flammable. In addition, FTC has postponed its previously scheduled Dec. 9 public hearing until 10 a.m. Jan. 13, 1975, in Room 532, Federal Trade Commission, 6th & Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20580. For additional information write to address below or call 202-962-0566.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 18, page 37217; Aug. 6, page 28292. CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 15. CONSUMER NEWS: Aug. 15; Oct. 15, 1972. Send comments to Special Assistant Director for Rulemaking, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

Consumer Affairs & Special Impact Advisory Committee

Federal Energy Administration (FEA) has amended the charter of its Consumer Advisory Committee. It is now called Consumer Affairs & Special Impact Advisory Committee. Its purpose is to provide FEA with advice on energy matters "to remedy the problems of the consumer, the poor, the elderly, & the handicapped persons in rural & urban America." The committee is comprised of leaders in consumer education, voluntary consumer groups, state consumer offices & former government officials who have had experience in the energy field.

The Committee is meeting Nov. 18 at 9:00 a.m., Room 3400, 12th & Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The meeting, which is open to the public, will deal with a blueprint for Project Independence, voluntary vs. mandatory conservation & energy tax & deregulation.

Details—*Federal Register*, Nov. 1, page 38720; Oct. 17, page 37098; Aug. 21, page 30195; Dec. 7, 1973, page 33821. CONSUMER REGISTER: Jan. 15.

Beef grades

Dec. 10 is deadline for comments on Agriculture Dept.'s proposal to revise standards for grades of beef.

New standards would redesign the grade system in such a way that some beef would be graded higher although it could not meet the standards now required for the higher grades of "Prime" & "Choice." For example, more meat, now graded "Good," would be graded as "Choice."

Under the proposal's requirements, "Prime," "Choice" & "Good" grade cuts would generally have less internal & surface fat than presently permitted. The exception would be an increase in marbling (flecks of fat among the lean) requirements for "Good" cuts from young animals (about 1½ years old). Agriculture says this would narrow the range of quality in "Good" grade.

Parts of the proposal would reduce marbling requirements in the top grades—which, of course, would mean leaner (less flecks of fat) cuts. Traditionally, beef with more flecks of fat has been considered to be more tender.

Nutritionally, however, lean beef is considered to be more healthful. With greater production of low-marbled beef, the proposal, in effect, would mean that more lean beef would qualify for "Prime" & "Choice"—thus, providing meat counters with more of these top grades to sell.

Also, the proposal would eliminate conformation (shape of the carcass) as quality grade factor. (Quality grades for beef—which are for voluntary use by industry—are now based primarily on 3 factors: Marbling, maturity—age of the animal when slaughtered—and conformation.) Conformation has no effect on the eating quality of beef. However, conformation does have a bearing on yield of retail cuts in a carcass & thus in its value. Yield grades, however, are a better measure of this factor. Hence the proposal would drop conformation as a quality grade factor & would require both yield & quality grading whenever grading is requested.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 11, page 32743. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept., Washington, D.C. 20250.

NOTE: For further explanation see chart below, prepared by CONSUMER REGISTER.

Simplified Explanation of Beef Standards Based on Amount of Marbling

Present price relationship	Marbling (fat)	Beef 30 months or younger (85% of sales to consumers)		Beef over 30 months old (15% of sales of consumers)	
		Present grades	Proposed grades	Present grades	Proposed grades
\$\$\$\$	Abundant	Prime	Prime	Prime	Prime
\$\$\$\$	Moderately Abundant	Prime	Prime	Prime Choice	Prime
\$\$\$\$	Slightly Abundant	Prime Choice	Prime	Choice	Prime Choice
\$\$\$	Moderate	Choice	Choice	Choice	Choice
\$\$\$	Modest	Choice	Choice	Choice Good	Choice
\$\$\$	Small	Choice Good	Choice	Good Standard	Choice Good
\$\$	Slight	Good Standard	Good	Good Standard	Good Standard
\$	Trace	Good Standard	Standard	Standard Utility *	Standard
\$	Practically devoid	Standard Utility *	Standard	Utility *	Standard Utility *

* Utility grade not usually sold to consumers

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